other major rivers should be taken subejct to the availability of resources.

Thefts in Government Colonies in South Delhi

1752. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that of late there has been a spate of thefts in Government colonies located in South Delhi, especially in Laxmibai Nagar and Sarojini Nagar and despite the fact that FIRs/complaints were lodged with the police, no action has been taken thereon; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Compared to the corresponding period of last year, when 74 cases of theft were reported from the Sarojini Nagar and Laxmibai Nagar colonies, 56 such cases were reported during the current year upto the 31st October, 1987. It is therefore, not correct to say that there has been an increase in cases of thefts in Government colonies. Prompt action is taken by the police on complaint from public.

(b) Steps like increased foot and mobile patrolling, posting of pickets at vulnerable places, action against bad characters and receivers of stolen property have been taken.

Opening of Branches of Banks in Gujarat

1753. SHRI RAMSINGBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a great demand for the opening of branches of banks in the rural and urban areas in Gujarat;

(b) If so, what are the details thereof?

(c) how many such branches have been opened during the period from 1st January, 1985 to 31st October, 1987 in various places,

(d) what are the rules, regulations and schemes for the opening of such branches in the rural and urban areas;

(e) what is the number of applications and letters received from MPs and others from Gujarat during the above period for the opening of such bank branches; and

(f) what are the details thereof, the action taken thereon and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (f) The aim of the current Branch Licensing Policy is to achieve a coverage of one bank office for 17,000 population in the rural and semi-urban areas of each development block and to have atleast one bank office within a distance of 10 kms. The rural and semi-urban centres conforming to the norms to be identified by a Group constitulaid down in the Policy are required by the lead bank for the district After approval by the District Consultative Committee of the list of centres identified by the Lead Bank Group, the concerned State Governments are required to forward the consolidated list to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for allotment of the eligible centres. In respect of urban and metropolitan centres, banks are required to apply directly to RBI and such applications relating to unbanked/underbanked pockets are considered by RBI on a selective basis taking into account the specific needs of the area and potential viability of